

IN THE CLAIMS

Claim 1. (Currently Amended) A network system connecting a plurality of different types of user terminal devices and a network server via a known communication system, wherein each user terminal device comprises:

means for retrieving information from a removable memory loaded into the terminal device; said removable memory storing user specific information and a group identification for identifying plural users of the user terminal device to form a specific group, and

means for transmitting said user specific information and information identifying said terminal device as specific information when said removable memory is loaded, wherein said information identifying said terminal device includes terminal type attributes and media type attributes corresponding to the type of terminal device; and

means for detecting an extraction of the removable memory from the terminal device based upon changes to an interface signal level from a logical high level to a logical low level; and

means for transmitting an erasure request to the network server based on the detected extraction of the removable memory; and

said network server comprises:

means for receiving said specific information
transmitted by said terminal device used by said user,

means for registering said user specific information
and said information identifying said terminal device
included in said specific information as registered
information, wherein the registered information is erased
in response to the erasure request transmitted by the
terminal device when said removable memory is extracted
from said terminal device;

means for updating said registered information
identifying said terminal device corresponding to said user
specific information,

means for identifying the terminal device, based on
said updated information by said means for updating,
currently being used by said user and for authenticating
said user by referring to said registered information,

means for notifying the authenticated user of the
arrival of message information for the user when the
removable memory is inserted into the terminal device,

means for converting message information addressed to
said authenticated user from a first data format
incompatible with the type of said terminal device to a
second data format compatible with the type of said
terminal device based on said terminal type attributes and

said media type attributes of said terminal device
currently being used by said user, and

means for transmitting the converted message
information to said terminal device currently being used by
said user;

wherein, in response to said user requesting message
information from the network server and switching from a first
terminal device compatible with the first data format to a
second terminal device compatible with the second data format
before the requested message information is transmitted, the
message information is converted from the first data format to
the second data format and transmitted to the second terminal
device.

Claims 2-9. (canceled)

Claim 10. (currently amended) A network system connecting
a plurality of different types of user terminal devices owned by
a user and a network server via a communication system, wherein
each terminal device comprises:

means for retrieving information from a removable
memory loaded into the terminal device; said removable
memory storing user specific information and a group
identification for identifying plural users of the user
terminal device to form a specific group, and

means for transmitting said user specific information and device information identifying said terminal device from which the user accesses the communication system when said removable memory is loaded, wherein said device information includes terminal type attributes and media type attributes corresponding to the type of terminal device;

means for detecting an extraction of the removable memory from the terminal device based upon changes to an interface signal level from a logical high level to a logical low level; and

means for transmitting an erasure request to the network server based on the detected extraction of the removable memory; and

~~and~~ said network server comprises:

means for receiving said user specific information and said device information transmitted by said terminal device in which said removable memory is loaded,

means for registering said user specific information and said device information in a table,

means for deleting said device information in the table if the means for receiving receives a ~~delete signal~~ the erasure request when the removable memory is extracted and for updating the table with device

information for the terminal device currently being used by said user,

means for identifying said terminal device being accessed by said user and for authenticating said user by referring to said registered information,

means for notifying the authenticated user of the arrival of message information for the user when the removable memory is inserted into the terminal device,

means for converting message information addressed to said authenticated user from a first data format incompatible with the type of said terminal device to a second data format compatible with the type of said terminal device based on said terminal type attributes and said media type attributes of said terminal device being used by the user, and

means for transmitting said converted message information to said terminal device currently being used by the user by referring to said updated table;

wherein, in response to said user requesting message information from the network server and switching from a first terminal device compatible with the first data format to a second terminal device compatible with the second data format before the requested message information is transmitted, the message information is converted from the first data format to

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the second data format and transmitted to the second terminal device.